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ADVERTISER **PAVE AND HOME HOUR**

WRITER

PROGRAM TITLE **UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS (EP. # 197)** OK

CHICAGO OUTLET **WMAQ**

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12:30-1:20 PM

TIME

MAY 1, 1956

DATE

FRIDAY DAY

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers

ORCHESTRA: QUARTET: RANGER SONG

ANNOUNCER: Well here we go to the National Forests for another look-in on our old friend Ranger Jim Robbins. One of the great resources of our National Forests is the range on the ranges. Particularly in the western states, large areas of land suitable for the grazing of livestock are intermingled with the heavier stands of timber in the National Forests. Some 13 million head of livestock each year are given summer pasture on the National Forest ranges. The owners are given grazing permits by the U.S. Forest Service, at a fair rate of charge based on carefully worked out schedules. And along with the timber, the water, the wildlife, recreation, and other resources of the National Forests, Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers are managing these range lands in a coordinated program of resource management that looks to the full and effective use of all the resources, but at the same time preserves and maintains them as continuing public assets.

Up at the Pine Cone Ranger Station today, we understand that Ranger Jim, and his young Assistant, Jerry Quick, are planning to attend a joint meeting of the Big Bend Cattle and Horse Growers Association and the Winding Creek Valley Sheep Raisers Association. Here they are, just arriving at the Big Bend Schoolhouse, where the meeting is to be held --

JERRY: We're pretty early, aren't we, Jim?

JIM: Yep. I came early on purpose, Jerry.

JERRY: Why?

JIM: Well, I thought it might be a good idea to get here early, so as to prevent any bad blood coming out in the open before we get started on our meeting - if I could. There's been trouble hatching up for some time.

JERRY: Between the cattle and sheep men?

JIM: Yeah. About a month ago some of the cattle men got together, and the sheepmen heard about it, and they've been holding secret meetings and everything too. Getting all worked up.

JERRY: The cow-men want to get the sheepmen put off the range - is that it?

JIM: Some of 'em say they do. And a lot more of 'em are hollerin' to have their grazing limits extended up into the sheep range. And of course the sheepmen claim that the cattle folks have all the grazing land now.

JERRY: That's why you called this meeting?

JIM: Yeah. I figured the best thing to do was to get 'em together to iron out their differences before we had a regular war on our hands.

JERRY: Yeah, but I bet there'll be plenty of fireworks at the meeting.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) I s'pect so, Jerry.

JERRY: Here comes the President of the Cattlemen, Jim.

JIM: Frank Thomson? Yep. Sure enough. (RAISING VOICE) Howdy, Frank.

THOMSON: Hello, Jim. How are yuh?

JIM: Okay, Frank -- Are you cow men going to have a good turn-out today, Frank?

THOMSON: Doggone right. We're gettin' every member of the Association here that ain't sick 'n' dead. We ainta gonna let them mutton-eaters run away with this meetin', I'll tell yuh.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) That's right, Frank -- (SERIOUSLY) Look here, Frank. I want you to be personally responsible for your cattlemen keeping peace while the sheepmen are coming in.

THOMSON: Me? S'pose some of them sheep fellas get ornery?

JIM: Never mind about them. You can keep your cowmen from getting in any fights if you want to, Frank. Can't you?

THOMSON: Yeah, I guess so.

JIM: If we're going to get anywhere, Frank, we've got to get at this business in a friendly spirit. Ain't that right?

THOMSON: Yeah, you're right, Jim. -- All right, Jim. I'll guarantee that my cow-men won't start no fusses - till the meetin' starts, anyway.

JIM: That's good, Frank. Thanks.

THOMSON: (GOING OFF) All right. See yuh later, Jim.

JIM: Yep. So long, Frank.

JERRY: I hope he can keep 'em peaceful, Jim. If those fellows got to fighting it'd just be too bad. We never would have any meeting.

JIM: Nope -- He's right about the cattle raisers turning out in force. Look at that bunch of 'em standing down there by the gate.

JERRY: Yeah. Looks like Frank Thomson's laying down the law to 'em, too.

JIM: -- Here's Stan Wilson, Jerry. (CALLS) Howdy, Stan.

WILSON: (COMING UP) Howdy, Jim. -- Look here, Jim -- them cow punchers --

JIM: Never mind them, Stan. I tell you what I want you to do. You're president of the Sheep Raisers outfit, Stan, so I want you to be personally responsible for your men keeping peace while we're getting the meeting started.

WILSON: I ain't gonna be responsible for anything if them cowpunchers keep blocking the gate out there. What they tryin' to do? Keep us sheep men from attending this meeting?

JIM: I don't think they'll try anything like that, Stan. See, they're moving away now -- We don't want any bad blood to break out, Stan. We've got to approach this business in a friendly spirit if we're going to get anywhere. Ain't that right?

WILSON: Yeah. That's true enough, Jim. I'll see to it that my sheep men don't start any arguments.

JIM: That's fine, Stan. Thanks.

WILSON: Okay.

JIM: See you later, Stan. -- (TO JERRY) Well, Jerry, we've got 'em both pledged to keep peace.

JERRY: Yeah. If nobody starts any arguments, we won't have any fights.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Yep, I guess we're all right now - at least 'till the meeting starts

JERRY: It looks like pretty near everybody's here now, Jim. Hadn't we better get started now?

JIM: I s'pect we had, Jerry. Suppose you go out and tell the boys we're going to start the meeting.

JERRY: All right

JIM: And Jerry --

JERRY: Yeah?

JIM: Grab a sheep man by one arm and a cattle man by the other, if you can, and bring 'em into the meeting together, friendly-like. (CHUCKLING) It might be a good omen.

(INTERVAL - MUSIC)

(FADE IN HUM OF VOICES)

JIM: Well, fellows, what do you say we come to order, and get going?

(VOICES SUBSIDE)

JIM: Boys, I reckon you know why I called this meeting. I understand there's a few little differences that oughta be ironed out ---

(VOICES, SHOUTS: "DOGGONE RIGHT THERE'S DIFFERENCES" -- "LITTLE DIFFERENCES, HUH!" ETC)

JIM: And I also understand there's some dissatisfaction with the way I've been handling grazing matters on our National Forest --

(VOICES, MUMBLING: "YER FAVORIN' THE SHEEPMEN TOO MUCH" "YUH BEEN GIVIN' THEM COWMEN ALL THE GOOD RANGE" --- ETC)

JIM: Well, I reckon the best way to streighten out our differences is to talk 'em over in a reasonable friendly way - so let's not get too personal; let's have our say, and try to work things out. (MUNBLING FROM AUDIENCE) All right, Frank. What've you got to say?

THOMSON: I got plenty to say - that's what. - Fer one thing, you're giving them sheep men too much range. We can't git enough range on the Forest to take care of our cattle.

VOICE: That's a lie! It's the cows that's crowdin' our sheep off the range.

VOICE: You oughta put them mutton wranglers off the range altogether!

(HUBBUB)

JIM: S'pose we let Frank have his say before we start arguin'. Go ahead, Frank.

THOMSON: Well, fer another thing, when them sheep come up on the range the herdere bust down our ranch fences an' the blattin' critters run all over our ranches. A band of them woolies got into my own ranch an' durn near wrecked the place.

VOICE: How about keepin' yer fences tight?

THOMSON: One of yer herdere busted down the fence, that's what.

(HUBBUB)

JIM: Let's not get personal about it, boys. - Wilson, what've you got to say for the sheepmen?

WILSON: Well speaking about this matter of bringin' the sheep up on the range I ain't gonna mention any names, but there's some cattle ranchers I know of that've been tryin' to keep us from gettin' through with our sheep on the right of way (HUB OF VOICES) And another thing - there's too much range allotted to cows. We sheep men ain't gettin' a fair break on the range. We ain't askin' for all of it, but we're askin' for our share.

(HUBBUB)

JIM: Well, I reckon we could go on all night complaining at each other like this, but it seems to me the question is, what are we going to do about it? (BUZZ OF VOICES) Wanta take up these things one by one and take a vote on 'em?

(HUBBUB)

VOICE: No sir, we ain't votin' on anything at this meeting. The cow men's got us sheep men outnumbered.

JIM: Well, suppose I have my say now, then. -- There's one thing I think we all oughta keep in mind all the way through, and that is that the cattle business and the sheep business in this part of the country are both established industries. What hurts either one of 'em hurts the community as a whole; and it's to our own interest in the long run to keep 'em both going. That means we've got to work together. -- Now we've established some pretty definite regulations for grazing on the National Forests.

(more)

We've made careful studies of the range, and we've allotted the range that's best suited to sheep for sheep grazing, and the range that's best suited for cattle to cattle grazing. And that piece of low country on the North Fork we've closed to grazing altogether, because it's vital to the preservation of our deer and elk. It's the only winter range they have on the Forest, and although we have plenty of summer range for 'em in the high country, they can't increase beyond what their winter range will carry. And our deer and elk are one of the resources of this Forest that should be preserved along with the other resources. --

On the cattle and sheep range, we've made careful studies of carrying capacity, so we know how many head of stock our ranges can carry without being overgrazed. We worked out plans for salting the range, and for stock driveways, and so on, that you all agreed to last year. And as long as I'm in charge of this Ranger District I'm going to fight to enforce those agreements and those regulations fairly and impartially. --

Now, if any of you want to break down those agreements, if you think the agreements and understandings I've had with your Advisory Boards aren't fair, if you think the way I've carried 'em out isn't fair, if you want to break me on this, if you think some other Ranger would treat you squarer than I have, let's have a showdown right now.

(CHORUS OF "NO S" AND SHOUTING)

THOMSON: Mr. Chairman --

JIM: All right, Frank --

THOMSON: Mr. Chairman, I move the sheep and cattle limits on the Forest stay as they are, and I move a committee of sheepmen and cattlemen get together, with Ranger Jim Robbins as presiding officer, and settle all these here arguments we've been fussin' about, an' settle 'em accordin' to the regulations an' our own agreements, fer good and all.

(BOATS OF ACCLAMATION)

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Seems to be unanimous, Frank -- Now fellas, what do you say we shake hands all around, and call it quits?

(APPLAUSE)

(FADEOUT)

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RM 4/24/36
4:20 PM

